PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Robert Haussmann, et al.	Examiner:	Huy Thanh Nguyen
Serial No.	10/757,089	Group Art Unit:	2616
Filed:	January 13, 2004	Docket No.	54317-029201
Title:	FAST PLAY DVD		
Customer No.:	46560		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this utility patent application is being transmitted electronically to the United States Patent and Trademark Office via the EFS Web e-Filing system on May 12, 2006.

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AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
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Sir/Madam:

In response to the Office Action mailed on March 14, 2006, kindly enter the following amendments:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously amended): A method of automatically playing the contents of a digital video disc, the method comprising:

linking the contents of the digital video disc in a passive fixed ordered sequence;

providing a main menu with a pre-determined timeout, the main menu displaying a first menu selection for the passive fixed ordered sequence and a second menu selection for an interactive sequence; and

proceeding to play the contents of the DVD in the passive fixed ordered sequence after the pre-determined timeout has lapsed without any interaction from a user.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one trailer is displayed to the user upon insertion of the digital video disc and prior to display of the main menu.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the passive fixed ordered sequence includes at least one sneak peek that is displayed to ~~the user after display of~~ after a feature presentation.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the passive fixed ordered sequence includes at least one delete scene that is displayed to ~~the user after display of~~ after a feature presentation.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the passive fixed ordered sequence includes bonus material that is displayed to ~~the user after display of~~ after a feature presentation.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the passive fixed ordered sequence includes a still gallery that is displayed to ~~the user after display of~~ after a feature presentation.

Claim 7 (previously amended): A medium having a plurality of data blocks stored therein that can be viewed by playing the medium in a medium player, the medium comprising:

a first instruction set that instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command; and

a second instruction set that instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in response to user commands that determine the order for playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium.

Claim 8 (original): The medium of claim 7, further comprising an instruction set selector that determines whether the first instruction set or the second instruction set will be used to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium.

Claim 9 (original): The medium of claim 8, wherein the instruction set selector uses the first instruction set as a default instruction set.

Claim 10 (original): The medium of claim 8, wherein the instruction set selector uses the second instruction set as a default instruction set.

Claim 11 (original): The medium of claim 8, wherein the instruction set selector receives an input from the user to switch to the first instruction or to the second instruction set.

Claim 12 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the user commands are chosen from a menu by the user.

Claim 13 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the medium is a digital video disc.

Claim 14 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the medium player is a digital video disc player.

Claim 15 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the medium player is operable with a video display that can display the plurality of data blocks of the medium.

Claim 16 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the plurality of data blocks include at least one movie.

Claim 17 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the plurality of data blocks include at least one trailer.

Claim 18 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the plurality of data blocks include bonus material.

Claim 19 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the plurality of data blocks include at least one sneak peak.

Claim 20 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the first instruction set instructs a controller housed within the medium player.

Claim 21 (original): The medium of claim 7, wherein the second instruction set instructs a controller housed within the medium player.

Claim 22 (previously amended): A method of playing a plurality of data blocks of a medium, the method comprising:

automatically playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command;

upon receiving an input from a user, interrupting the playing of the plurality of data blocks of the medium in the pre-determined passive sequence;

providing a menu to the user so that the user can select the plurality of data blocks of the medium that the user would like to view in an order different from that of the pre-determined passive sequence; and

playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium that the user has chosen from the menu.

Claim 23 (original): The medium of claim 22, wherein the medium is a digital video disc.

Claim 24 (original): The medium of claim 23, wherein the plurality of data blocks of the digital video disc are played using a digital video disc player.

Claim 25 (original): The medium of claim 22, wherein the plurality of data blocks include at least one movie.

Claim 26 (original): The medium of claim 22, wherein the plurality of data blocks include at least one trailer.

Claim 27 (original): The medium of claim 22, wherein the plurality of data blocks include bonus material.

Claim 28 (original): The medium of claim 22, wherein the plurality of data blocks include at least one sneak peak.

Claim 29 (previously amended): A method of playing a plurality of data blocks of a medium in a user friendly manner, the method comprising:

providing a menu to a user for selecting the plurality of data blocks of the medium to be viewed, the menu displaying a first menu selection for a pre-determined passive fixed ordered sequence and a second menu selection for an interactive sequence; and

upon not receiving an input within a pre-determined time interval from the user selecting the plurality of data blocks of the medium to be viewed, automatically playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium in the pre-determined passive fixed order sequence.

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 29, further comprising upon receiving an input from the user after the pre-determined time interval, interrupting the playing of the plurality of data blocks of the medium in the pre-determined sequence.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 30, further comprising providing a menu to the user so that the user can select either the plurality of data blocks of the medium that the user would like to view or to continue viewing the plurality of data blocks of the medium in the pre-determined sequence.

Claim 32 (original): The method of claim 31, wherein the playing of the data blocks of the medium in the pre-determined sequence resumes at the point of interruption.

Claim 33 (original): The method of claim 31, further comprising playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium that the user has chosen from the menu.

Claim 34 (original): The method of claim 33, further comprising resuming the playing of the plurality of data blocks that the user has chosen from the menu at the point of interruption if the user interrupts the playing to view the menu.

Claim 35 (previously amended): A method of selecting a mode for displaying the contents of a medium, the method comprising:

displaying the contents of a medium in a first mode according to a first set of instructions, wherein the first set of instructions instructs the displaying the contents of the medium to be effectuated in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command;

upon receiving a user input, selecting a second mode, wherein the user selects, through a user input, the contents of the DVD to be displayed in an order different from that of the pre-determined passive sequence; and

after receiving the user input, displaying the contents of the medium in the second mode according to a second set of instructions.

Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein the second set of instructions allows a the user to determine an order of viewing the contents of the medium.

Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 35, wherein the medium is a digital video disc.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The method of claim 35, wherein the user ~~inputted~~ input is effectuated by making a selection from a menu.

Claim 39 (previously amended): A method of viewing the contents stored on a medium, the method comprising:

automatically playing a first set of data blocks of the medium in a passive pre-ordered viewing mode, wherein the order of the first set of data blocks is not altered in response to a user command;

upon receiving an input from a user, interrupting the pre-ordered viewing mode;

providing a menu to the user so that the user can select either the pre-ordered viewing mode or a standard viewing mode, wherein the user can select a subset of a second set of data blocks to view in the standard viewing mode;

resuming the playing of the first set of data blocks at the point of interruption in the passive pre-ordered viewing mode if the user selects the passive pre-ordered viewing mode;

initiating the playing of the subset of the second set of data blocks in the standard viewing mode at the point of interruption in the first set of data blocks if the user selects the subset of the second set of data blocks to coincide with the first set of data blocks; and

initiating the playing of the subset of the second set of data blocks in the standard viewing mode at the beginning of the subset of the second set of data blocks if the user selects the subset of the second set of data blocks such that the subset of the second set of data blocks does not coincide with the first set of data blocks.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 39, wherein the first set of data blocks is a warning, trailer, a movie, a bonus scene, and a sneak peak.

Claim 41 (original): The method of claim 40, wherein the subset of the second set of data blocks is the movie.

Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 39, wherein the medium is a digital video disc.

Claim 43 (previously added): A method of automatically playing the contents of a digital video disc, the method comprising:

linking the contents of the digital video disc in a passive fixed ordered sequence;

providing a main menu with a pre-determined timeout, the main menu displaying selections for an interactive sequence; and

proceeding to play the contents of the DVD in the passive fixed ordered sequence after the pre-determined timeout has lapsed without any interaction from a user.

Claim 44 (previously added): A medium having a plurality of data blocks stored therein that can be viewed by playing the medium in a medium player, the medium comprising:

a first instruction set that instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that does not require any user commands; and

a second instruction set that instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in response to user commands that determine the order for playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium.

Claim 45 (previously added): A method of playing a plurality of data blocks of a medium, the method comprising:

automatically playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that does not require any user input;

upon receiving an input from a user, interrupting the playing of the plurality of data blocks of the medium in the pre-determined passive sequence;

providing a menu to the user so that the user can select the plurality of data blocks of the medium that the user would like to view in an order selected by the user; and

playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium that the user has chosen from the menu.

Claim 46 (previously added): A method of playing a plurality of data blocks of a medium in a user friendly manner, the method comprising:

providing a menu to a user for selecting the plurality of data blocks of the medium to be viewed, the menu displaying selections for an interactive sequence; and

automatically playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium in the pre-determined passive fixed order sequence if user has not provided a user command.

Claim 47 (previously added): A method of selecting a mode for displaying the contents of a medium, the method comprising:

displaying the contents of a medium in a first mode according to a first set of instructions, wherein the first set of instructions instructs the displaying the contents of the medium to be effectuated in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that does not require any user input;

upon receiving a user input, selecting a second mode, wherein the user selects, through a user input, the contents of the DVD to be displayed in an order selected by the user; and

after receiving the user input, displaying the contents of the medium in the second mode according to a second set of instructions.

Claim 48 (previously added): A method of viewing the contents stored on a medium, the method comprising:

automatically playing a first set of data blocks of the medium in a passive pre-ordered viewing mode, wherein the order of the first set of data blocks does not require any user input;

upon receiving an input from a user, interrupting the pre-ordered viewing mode;

providing a menu to the user so that the user can select either the pre-ordered viewing mode or a standard viewing mode, wherein the user can select a subset of a second set of data blocks to view in the standard viewing mode;

resuming the playing of the first set of data blocks at the point of interruption in the passive pre-ordered viewing mode if the user selects the passive pre-ordered viewing mode;

initiating the playing of the subset of the second set of data blocks in the standard viewing mode at the point of interruption in the first set of data blocks if the user selects the subset of the second set of data blocks to coincide with the first set of data blocks; and

initiating the playing of the subset of the second set of data blocks in the standard viewing mode at the beginning of the subset of the second set of data blocks if the user selects the subset of the second set of data blocks such that the subset of the second set of data blocks does not coincide with the first set of data blocks.

REMARKS

The Office Action issued by the Examiner on March 14, 2006 and the citations referred to in the Office Action have been carefully considered. Claims 1-47 are currently pending. Applicant has amended claims 3-6 and 38.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-39 and 44-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for lack of enablement. In particular, the Examiner states that "[t]he specification doers [sic] not describe the same recorded content of the video disc can be linking [sic] a passive fixed ordered sequence that can not [sic] altered by the user and in a [sic] interactive sequence (the content of the sequence can be altered by the user) as being recited in claims 1, 7, 22, 29, 35, 43-46." See Office Action, page 2. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention.

First, the examiner asserts, in the parenthetical quoted above, that an interactive sequence is a sequence in which "the content of the sequence can be altered by the user." Applicants never defined an interactive sequence in this manner. The passivity or interactivity of a sequence is directed towards the order of the sequence. The order for one sequence is pre-determined, and therefore, passive. The order for another sequence is determined by the user, and therefore, interactive.

Second, there is more than sufficient support to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to understand that the same content can be viewed either in a mode that includes a passive fixed ordered sequence that cannot be altered by the user or in a mode that includes an interactive sequence.

With respect to the same content being viewed in two modes, Paragraph 20 of the Specification states that "[i]n one embodiment, a bimodal DVD allows the user to view the DVD in two modes." Accordingly, the Specification makes clear that there are two modes for viewing the same content.

With respect to one mode including a passive fixed ordered sequence that cannot be altered by the user, Paragraph 20 of the Specification goes on to state that:

> The second mode is a pre-ordered viewing mode that does not require the user to interact with the DVD other than inserting the DVD into a DVD player. The pre-ordered viewing mode allows the user to view a DVD in the same fashion as a VHS tape. The user does not even have to touch a remote control in order to view the contents of the DVD.

By stating that this mode "does not require the user to interact with the DVD other than inserting the DVD into a DVD player," the Specification makes very clear that the mode is passive. The order is pre-determined for the user. By stating that "[t]he pre-ordered viewing mode allows the user to view a DVD in the same fashion as a VHS tape," the Specification makes clear that the order of the contents in this mode cannot be altered by the user because the order of the contents on a VHS tape cannot be altered by the user. Further, a user's interaction with the DVD would not be able to alter the order of the passive sequence of the DVD because the Specification makes clear that once the user actually does interact with the DVD, there is a switch in modes from the non-interactive mode to the interactive mode: "If the user has interacted with the DVD, the DVD switches modes from the pre-ordered viewing mode to the standard DVD mode." See Specification, Paragraph 23. Alternatively, the Specification provides that "a menu is displayed when the user interacts with the DVD to provide the user with a choice of continuing the pre-ordered viewing mode or proceeding to the standard DVD mode." See Specification, Paragraph 23. Accordingly, the user can either switch modes or continue in the pre-ordered viewing mode, but the user cannot alter the order of the sequence of the pre-ordered viewing mode. One of ordinarily skilled in the art is easily enabled here to provide a passive fixed ordered sequence that cannot be altered.

With respect to one mode including an interactive sequence, Paragraph 20 of the Specification makes clear that one mode is interactive:

> If the user has interacted with the DVD, the DVD switches modes from the pre-ordered viewing mode to the standard DVD mode. In one embodiment, a menu is displayed in the standard DVD mode for the user to make a selection.

Accordingly, the user interacts with the DVD to determine the order of contents to be viewed by viewing a menu and making a selection.

Applicants submit that the enablement rejection of claims 1, 7, 22, 29, 35, 43-46 be withdrawn. The Specification provides more than a sufficient amount of detail to allow one of ordinary skill in the art to understand the two modes discussed above.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 2-6, and 29 on the basis that "it is not clear whether the first menu selection and second menu selection are provided in the main menu at the same time or at [sic] different time during playing the content." See Office Action, pages 2-3. Applicants submit that the claim language is clear. Two menu selections are provided in a main menu so that the user can determine which mode the user would like to play the content in: either the passive fixed ordered sequence or the interactive sequence. At this point, the content is not actually played yet. That is why if there is no response from the user as to which mode the user would to like to play the content in, a pre-determined timeout occurs and the content starts playing in the passive fixed ordered sequence.

The Examiner also contends that "it is not clear if the 'predetermined timeout has lapsed' from the first menu selection or second menu selection." See Office Action, page 3. Claim 1 recites "providing a main menu with a pre-determined timeout, the main menu displaying a first menu selection for the passive fixed ordered sequence and a second menu selection for an interactive sequence." By reciting "providing a main menu with a pre-determined timeout,"

claim 1 makes clear that if there is no selection from the different possible menu selections within a given time period, there is a timeout. By reciting "the main menu displaying a first menu selection for the passive fixed ordered sequence and a second menu selection for an interactive sequence," claim 1 makes clear that the timeout is based on whether the user chooses either the first menu selection or the second menu selection in the given time period. Claim 1 goes on to recite "proceeding to play the contents of the DVD in the passive fixed ordered sequence after the pre-determined timeout has lapsed without any interaction from a user." Accordingly, claim 1 makes clear that a lack of interaction from a user results in the pre-determined timeout. Therefore, Applicants submit that the language of claim 1 is clear and that the objections regarding claim 1 should be withdrawn. The objections for claims 2-6 should also be withdrawn because these claims depend from claim 1. Further, the objection for claim 29 should be withdrawn for similar reasons to those discussed with respect to claim 1.

The Examiner further objected to claims 2-6 on the basis that "[i]t is not clear [sic] "trailer", "sneak peak", "delete scene", "bonus", and "still gallery" is relating to the first menu selection (passive fixed ordered sequence) or second menu selection (interactive sequence)." With respect to claim 2, the display of the trailer takes place before the main menu is even displayed. Therefore, the display of the trailer does not relate to the first menu selection or the second menu selection. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the objection to claim 2 should be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 3-6, Applicants have amended the claims to clarify that the "sneak peak," "delete scene," "bonus," and "still gallery" relate to the passive fixed ordered sequence. These amendments were made solely for clarification purposes and not for any reasons related to patentability. Accordingly, Applicants submit the objections to claims 3-6 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections of claims 7-17, 20-26, 35-39, 42, and 44-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 7-17, 20-26, 35-39, 42, and 44-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Application No. 2003/0113096 to Taira ("Taira") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,895,170 to Lambert ("Lambert").

Claims 7 - 17, 20

With respect to claim 7, the Examiner contends that Taira teaches: "a first instruction set that instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined sequence normal sequence [sic] in a normal reproducing mode (section 0562, page 30, section 0298, page 15)." See Office Action, page 3. Applicants would like to point out that the cited claim language is not the claim language of claim 7. In actuality, claim 7 recites: "a first instruction set that instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command." Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 7 should be withdrawn as there has been no indication of how Taira teaches "a first instruction set that instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command."

Even if the Examiner intended the cited sections of Taira to apply to the actual claim language of claim 7, there is no teaching in Taira for "a first instruction set that instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command." The paragraphs in Taira cited by the Examiner at most teach that a DVD starts playing from a particular title when the DVD is inserted and the playback key is pressed (paragraph 562 of Taira) and that a user can be prohibited from essentially switching out of a particular piece of content once the piece of content has initiated (Paragraph 298). With respect to paragraph 562 of Taira, the teaching of initiating play from a location on a DVD does

not provide for having a plurality of data blocks in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command. Further, with respect to paragraph 298 of Taira, the teaching of preventing a user from taking certain actions during the play of a piece of content, e.g., switching out of the content or fast-forwarding through the content, does not provide for having a plurality of data blocks in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command. The teaching of Taira only restricts how the user can play content, not what order the user plays the content in.

The Examiner also contends that Taira teaches: "a second instruction set that instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in response to user commands that determine the order for playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium (section 0298, page 15, section 0597, page 31)." See Office Action, page 4. Taira does not teach a second instruction set with respect to the same plurality of data blocks for which the first instruction set can be performed on. Taira essentially teaches one instruction set for a plurality of data blocks, not two separate instruction sets (passive and interactive) that can each be performed on the same plurality of data blocks. The teachings of Taira at most support some user playback restrictions on switching out of or fast-forwarding content from one instruction set, not two separate instruction sets (passive and interactive).

In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 7 under § 103(a) over Taira in view of Lambert. However the Office Action does not provide any explanation of Lambert with respect to claim 7. Applicants presume that the explanation of Lambert with respect to claim 8 is applicable to claim 8, not claim 7. Therefore, Applicants ask the Examiner to clarify any position regarding Lambert with respect to claim 7 so that Applicants may adequately respond.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 7 be withdrawn. Accordingly, the rejections for claims 8-17 and 20 should also be withdrawn as these claims depend from claim 7.

Claim 8

The Examiner rejected claim 8 on the basis that "the user can selects [sic] first instruction set or second instruction set to played (normal play back, special, skip or repeat playback, select chapter or title from displayed menu (section 0298, page 15, section 0597, page 31). [sic]" See Office Action, page 4. Claim 7 makes clear that the first instruction set "instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command" and the second instruction set "instructs the medium player to play the plurality of data blocks of the medium in response to user commands that determine the order for playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium." The teaching of Taira to allow the user to have normal playback, special, skip, or repeat playback, and select chapter or title from displayed menu does not select from a passive or interactive mode for playing the plurality of data blocks. At most, Taira teaches a selection of commands associated with one mode, not an instruction set selector for selecting between two different modes of instruction sets.

The Examiner admits that Taira does not teach a pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command, but asserts that Lambert teaches this concept. See Office Action, page 4. However, the sequence in Lambert is not pre-determined. In actuality, the whole point of Lambert is to not have a pre-determined sequence, but rather a sequence that varies to maintain user interest. For instance, Lambert states that "[i]n one embodiment, the selection of secondary chapters played back varies each time the DVD is played." See Lambert, col. 3, lines 5-7. Lambert further explains that "[i]n addition, because the sequence of trailers changes over time (as opposed to being static as in videotapes), viewer interest is maintained." See Lambert, col. 3, lines 13-16. As discussed above, Paragraph 20 of the Specification explains that "[t]he pre-ordered viewing mode allows the user to view a DVD in the same fashion as a VHS tape." Accordingly, the pre-determined passive sequence of claim 8 is fixed in a manner similar to a VHS tape. Lambert specifically teaches away from the pre-determined sequence of claim 8 by saying that the sequence of Lambert maintains viewer interest

by not being static like a videotape. Therefore, Lambert does not teach a pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 8 be withdrawn.

Claims 9 and 10

The Examiner submits that "[r]egarding claims 9 and 10, Taira teaches using default instruction set to set a predetermined [sic] blocks to be played (sections 0561-0562, 0298)." With respect to claim 9, Taira does not teach that "the instruction set selector uses the first instruction set as a default instruction set" as the Examiner admits that Taira does not teach a pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command. See Office Action, page 4. If Taira does not teach the first instruction, then there is no first instruction in Taira to set as the default instruction set. Further, as discussed above, there is no teaching in Taira for an instruction set selector, as recited in claim 8. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 9 should be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 10, as discussed above, there is no teaching in Taira for an instruction set selector, as recited in claim 8. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 10 should be withdrawn.

Claim 11

The Examiner further submits that "Taira teaches further teaches the instruction set selector receives an input from the user to switch to the first instruction or to the second instruction set (section 0298, page 15, section 0597, page 31)." See Office Action, page 5. Applicants submit that, as discussed above, there is no teaching in Taira for an instruction set selector, as recited in claim 8. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 11 should be withdrawn.

Claims 12-17 and 20-21

Applicants submit that claims 12-17 and 20-21 are allowable as they depend from independent claim 7. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 12-17 and 20-21 should be withdrawn.

Claim 22

First, the Examiner rejects claim 22 on the basis that Taira teaches "automatically playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre determined [sic] sequence (section 0557 to 0562, page 30)." See Office Action, page 6. Applicants would like to point out that the claim language actually recites "automatically playing the plurality of data blocks of the medium in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command." As discussed above with respect to claim 8, the Examiner admits that Taira does not teach a pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command. See Office Action, page 4. The claim language of claim 22 includes "a fixed order," and by the Examiner's own discussion of "a fix [sic] ordered sequence," Taira is not applicable. See Office Action, page 4. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 22 be withdrawn.

The sections of Taira that are cited by the Examiner (paragraphs 0557 - 0562) relate to one instruction set, not two different instruction sets for the same plurality of data blocks, as recited in claim 22. The order of the plurality of data blocks in Taira can be altered. The user stops the play of the content and can then change the order of what is seen next. There is simply no teaching in Taira, as admitted by the Examiner, of "a fix [sic] ordered sequence." See Office Action, page 4.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 22 is in condition for allowance and that the rejection of claim 22 should be withdrawn.

Claims 23-26

Claims 23-26 depend from claim 22. Accordingly, claims 23-26 are allowable as claim 22 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 23-26 should be withdrawn.

Claim 35

The Examiner submits that Taira teaches "displaying the contents of a medium in a first mode (normal reproducing mode) according to a first set of instructions, wherein the first set of instructions instructs the displaying the contents of the medium to be effectuated in a predetermined sequence (sections 0557-0562, page 30, 0298, page 15)." See Office Action, page 7. Applicants submit that the language of claim 35 actually recites: "displaying the contents of a medium in a first mode according to a first set of instructions, wherein the first set of instructions instructs the displaying the contents of the medium to be effectuated in a pre-determined passive sequence, the pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command." As discussed with respect to claim 8, the Examiner admits that Taira does not teach a pre-determined passive sequence being in a fixed order that is not altered in response to a user command. See Office Action, page 4. The claim language of claim 35 includes "a fixed order," and by the Examiner's own discussion of "a fixed ordered sequence," Taira is not applicable. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 35 be withdrawn.

The sections of Taira that are cited by the Examiner (paragraphs 0557 - 0562 and paragraph 0298) relate to one instruction set, not two different instruction sets for the same plurality of data blocks, as recited in claim 35. The order of the plurality of data blocks in Taira can be altered. The user stops the play of the content and can then change the order of what is seen next. There is simply no teaching in Taira, as admitted by the Examiner, of "a fix ordered sequence." See Office Action, page 4.

Claim 36-38

Claims 36-38 depend from claim 35. Accordingly, claims 36-38 are allowable as claim 35 is in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants have amended claim 38 for grammatical correctness. The word "inputted" was deleted and replaced with the word "input." This amendment was made solely for clarification purposes and not for any reasons related to patentability. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 36-38 should be withdrawn.

Claims 39 and 47

The Examiner rejected claims 39 and 47 for similar reasons to that of claim 8. In particular, the Examiner rejected claims 39 and 47 over Taira in view of Lambert. Accordingly, the discussion with respect to claim 8 is applicable here. Neither Taira nor Lambert teaches "a fixed ordered sequence." Therefore, claims 39 and 47 are in condition for allowance.

Further, with respect to claim 39, Taira does not teach "resuming the playing of the first set of data blocks at the point of interruption in the passive pre-ordered viewing mode if the user selects the passive pre-ordered viewing mode." Taira does not teach resumption of play for a fixed ordered viewing mode as Taira does not even teach a fixed ordered viewing mode.

In addition, Taira does not teach "initiating the playing of the subset of the second set of data blocks in the standard viewing mode at the point of interruption in the first set of data blocks if the user selects the subset of the second set of data blocks to coincide with the first set of data blocks" and "initiating the playing of the subset of the second set of data blocks in the standard viewing mode at the beginning of the subset of the second set of data blocks if the user selects the subset of the second set of data blocks such that the subset of the second set of data blocks does not coincide with the first set of data blocks." Taira does not teach playing one set of data blocks and then playing a different set of data blocks (including at least some of the same data blocks as the first set and potentially different data blocks from the first set) at the same position at which the first set of data blocks was interrupted.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 39 and 47 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections of claims 29-31, 33, 43, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 29-31, 33, 43, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,630,006 to Hirayama ("Hirayama") in view of Lambert.

Claim 29

The Examiner admits that Hirayama does not teach a fixed ordered sequence. See Office Action, page 10. As discussed above, Lambert is not applicable because Lambert does not teach "a fixed ordered sequence." Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 29 be withdrawn.

Claims 30, 31, and 33

Claims 30, 31, and 33 depend from claim 29. Accordingly, claims 30, 31, and 33 are allowable as claim 29 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 30, 31, and 33 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections of claims 18, 19, 27, 28, 40, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 18, 19, 27, 28, 40, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Taira in view of Lambert and in further view of U.S. Application Publication No. 2004/136698 to Mock ("Mock").

Claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 7 and are therefore allowable for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 7. Claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 22 and are therefore allowable for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 22. Claims 40 and 41 depend from claim 38 and are therefore allowable for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 38.

Claim Rejections of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Taira in view of Hirayama and in further view of Lambert.

As discussed above and admitted by the Examiner, Taira and Hirayama do not teach "a fix [sic] ordered sequence." See Office Action, page 4. Further, as discussed above, Lambert teaches away from "a fixed ordered sequence." Therefore, Taira, Hirayama, and Lambert do not teach "linking the contents of the digital video disc in a passive fixed ordered sequence," which recites a "passive fixed ordered sequence." Further, Taira, Hirayama, and Lambert do not teach "providing a main menu with a pre-determined timeout, the main menu displaying a first menu selection for the passive fixed ordered sequence and a second menu selection for an interactive sequence," which also recites a "passive fixed ordered sequence." Finally, Taira, Hirayama, and Lambert do not teach "proceeding to play the contents of the DVD in the passive fixed ordered sequence after the pre-determined timeout has lapsed without any interaction from a user," which also recites a "passive fixed ordered sequence." Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. Further, Applicants submit that the rejections of claims 2 and 3 should be withdrawn as claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1.

Further, Applicants would like to point out that the Examiner actually makes no mention of Lambert within the substance of this rejection, but makes mention of Kikuchi. Applicants ask the Examiner to clarify whether Kikuchi is or is not part of the rejection. Further, if Kikuchi is part of the rejection, Applicants ask the Examiner to provide a citation for Kikuchi.

Claim Rejections of claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Taira in view of Hirayama and in further view of Lambert and in further view of Mock. Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 3-6 are allowable as claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections of claims 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hirayama in view of Lambert. Claims 32 and 34 depend from claim 29. Accordingly, claims 32 and 34 are allowable as claim 29 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 48

Applicants note that the Examiner has not rejected claim 48. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 48 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed and that the application is now in order for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof is courteously requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to **Deposit Account Number 50-2638**. Please ensure that Attorney Docket Number 54317-029201 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 12, 2006

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